this purpose, the S.B.I. CAPS has been engaged as advisor for the revival purpose, who has given a programme to complete the process in 16 weeks.

Preventing private players from procurement of foodgrains

2002. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to prevent private players from procuring foodgrains from the *mandis* during the forthcoming harvesting season;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such a step would not preclude the farmers to derive benefit from the competition; and

(d) if so, how Government propose to restore such benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Expansion of Antyodaya Anna Yojana

2003. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to expand the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in tribal belts of the country; and

(b) the financial and physical progress of the Scheme during 2006-07, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The Central Government, through FCI, has assumed the responsibility for procurement, storage, transportation and

bulk allocation of foodgrains to the State Governments. The operational responsibility including allocation within State, identification of families below the poverty line, issue of ration cards and supervision of the functioning of FPS, rest with the State Governments.

Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) was started in December, 2000 to make the TPDS more focused on the poorest of the poor. This scheme has been expended thrice since its inception. At the time of its inception the target of the Government was to cover 1 crore families out of 6.52 crores BPL families. After that this scheme was expended during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and every time 50 lakh AAY households were added in this scheme. Thus, the target of the Government is to cover 2.50 crore AAY households. Out of 2.50 crore targeted AAY families, the various States/ UT Governments have identified so far 2.38 crore families and issued ration cards to them. The Central Government has already been allocating foodgrains for 2.38 crore AAY families. These families are provided foodgrains at @ Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat for 35 kg. per households/per month. As per the guidelines issued by the Central Government to the State Governments for identification of AAY families, the following categories of people are covered under the scheme:

(i) Landless agriculture laborers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/ craftsmen such as potters/tanners, weavers, blacksmiths, carpenters, slum dwellers, persons earning their livelihood on daily basis in the informal sector like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, fruit and flower sellers, snake charmers, rag pickers, cobblers, destitute and other similar categories in both rural and urban areas. Provided they are the poorest among BPL families.

(ii) Households headed by widow or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support.

(iii) Widows or terminally ill persons or disabled persons or persons aged 60 years or more or single women or single men with no family or societal support or assured means of subsistence.

(iv) All primitive tribal households.

(b) The number of AAY households benefited in different States/UTs

under AAY scheme during 2006-07 as on 7.3.2007 is given in the statement.

Statement

The number of people benefited in different states from Antyodaya Anna Yojana Scheme During 2006-07 as on 07.03.2007.

(In lakh)

S.No.	States/UTs	2006-07
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	
3.	Assam	1.430
4.	Bihar	9.131
5.	Chhattisgarh	
6.	Delhi	
7.	Goa	
8.	Gujarat	1.661
9.	Haryana	1.109
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.789
11.	J & K	0.322
12.	Jharkhand	
13.	Karnataka	
14.	Kerala	2.384
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3.120
16.	Maharashtra	3.903
17.	Manipur	
18.	Meghalaya	0.146
19.	Mizoram	
20.	Nagaland	
21.	Orissa	2.632
22.	Punjab	0.406

1	2	3
24.	Sikkim	0.066
25.	Tamil Nadu	
26.	Tripura	
27.	Uttar Pradesh	
28.	Uttarakhand	0.367
29.	West Bengal	
30.	A & N	
31.	Chandigarh	
32.	D & N Haveli	0.015
33.	Daman & Diu	
34.	Lakshadweep	
35.	Pondicherry	
	Total	29.405

Buffer stock of sugar

2004. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been approached by the industrial lobby to maintain a buffer stock of around 30 million tonnes of sugar in order to help the sugar factories reduce their storage cost and whether Government are planning to move in this direction;

(b) since the production of sugar in the country is almost 40-50 per cent more than the domestic demand, what is the rationale behind 8-9 month long ban on export of sugar; and

(c) why Government are not trying to check the illegal hoardings by unscrupulous traders instead of imposing ban on export by the producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Central Government has not been approached by any industrial lobby to maintain a buffer stock of around 30 million tons. However,